Glut in Sugar Industry

606. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that sugar industry in the country is facing a glut ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that arrears of sugar Mills have crossed Rs. 700 crores and by the end of the current financial year, they are expected to touch around Rs. 1000 crores; and

(c) if so, what remedial measures Government have taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) As per latest available reports received from sugar factories, the cane price arrears in the country as on 15-11-91 was Rs 81·01 crores.

(c) Ensuring timey payment of cane price by sugar factories is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments who have got the necessary powers and field organisations to enforce such payments. The Central Government reviews the position and advises the State Governments from time to time to ensure timey payment of cane price dues.

Wheat and rice requirements of Gujarat

607. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) what is the monthly requirement of wheat and rice of Gujarat ;

(b) what is the quantity allocated for the supply of wheat and rice to the State on the basis of the Census figures of 1991 ; and

(c) what is the demand put forward by the State Government to meet the requirement of the people in the State and the reasons for not acceding to the request of the Gujarat Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) Based on the monthly average offtake for the year, 1091, the requirement of wheat and rice in respect of Gujarat works out to 68,000 and 25,926 tonnes respectively.

(b) The allocation of wheat and rice is not made on the basis of population. However, for the month of February, 1992 Gujarat has been allotted 28,000 tonnes of rice and 70,000 tonnes of wheat.

(c) The State has demanded additional allocation of 20,000 tonnes of wheat for the month of February, 1992. Allocations of rice and wheat from the Central Pool are made to various States/Union Territories on a month to month basis taking into account the stocks available in the Central Pool, seasonal availability, offtake trend, relative needs of various States/Union Territories and other related factors.

Warehouses in Rajasthan and Orissa

608. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the number of warehouses in operation as on 15th February, 1992 In Rajasthan and Orissa;

(b) whether Government propose to set up more warehouses in these States during 1992-93 as well as during the Eighth Five Year Plan period ; and

(c) if so, the Statewise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) The main Central agencies engaged in the construction of godowns/warehouses are Food Corporation of India (FCI) and Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC). The two Corporations are together operating 81 godowns/warehouses in Rajasthan and 51 in Orissa.

(b) and (c) The construction of additional storage capacity in these two States, as tentatively proposed by FCI and CWC, is as follows:

(Figures in lakh tonnes)

State	During 1992-93	During Eighth Plan period (1992-97)
Rajasthan	0·53	0·93
Orissa	0·31	1·45